

**Polk Family Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2016**

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm76036491>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms016025>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Polk Family Papers

**Span Dates:** 1767-1859

**ID No.:** MSS36491

**Creator:** Polk Family

**Extent:** 200 items

**Extent:** 2 containers

**Extent:** .6 linear feet

**Extent:** 1 microfilm reel

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm76036491>

**Summary:** Correspondence, indentures and legal agreements, circulars, pamphlets, and other papers relating to the Polk family, chiefly letters to William Polk. Also includes a biography of William Polk. Other family members represented include Leonidas Polk and James K. Polk.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848--Correspondence.

Adams, John Quincy, 1767-1848.

Balch, Alfred, 1785-1853--Correspondence.

Branch, John, 1782-1863--Correspondence.

Caldwell, Joseph, 1773-1835--Correspondence.

Clay, Henry, 1777-1852.

Crawford, William Harris, 1772-1834.

Donelson, Andrew Jackson, 1799-1871--Correspondence.

Eaton, John Henry, 1790-1856--Correspondence.

Graham, Daniel, 1789-1869--Correspondence.

Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845--Correspondence.

Jackson, Andrew, 1767-1845.

Lewis, William Berkeley, 1784-1866--Correspondence.

Mangum, Willie Person, 1792-1861--Correspondence.

Polk family.

Polk, James K. (James Knox), 1795-1849.

Polk, Leonidas, 1806-1864.

Polk, William, 1758-1834--Correspondence.

Polk, William, 1758-1834.

Ruffin, Thomas, 1787-1870--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Bank of the United States (1816-1836)

University of North Carolina (1793-1962)

### Subjects

Elections--United States--1824.

Elections--United States--1828.

Presidents--United States--Election--1824.

Presidents--United States--Election--1828.

Universities and colleges--North Carolina.

**Places**

North Carolina--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.  
United States--Politics and government--1815-1861.

**Titles**

*Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.*

**Provenance**

The papers of the Polk family were received by the Library of Congress as a purchase in 1907 and gift of W. M. Polk, 1911-1912.

**Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Polk family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

**Access and Restrictions**

The papers of the Polk family are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

**Microfilm**

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on one reel. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Polk Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of the Polk family span the years 1767-1859. Bound in two volumes, the collection contains correspondence, indentures and legal agreements, circulars, pamphlets, and miscellaneous material. Letters to William Polk concern the University of North Carolina, elections of 1824 and 1828, Bank of the United States, and the politics of John Quincy Adams, William Harris Crawford, Henry Clay, and Andrew Jackson. Included are copies of documents relating to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and an 1859 biography of William Polk. Other family members represented include Leonidas Polk and James K. Polk. Correspondents include John Quincy Adams, Alfred Balch, John Branch, Joseph Caldwell, Andrew Jackson Donelson, John Henry Eaton, Daniel Graham, Andrew Jackson, William Berkeley Lewis, Willie Person Mangum, and Thomas Ruffin.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged chronologically in two bound volumes.

## Container List

| <b>Container</b> | <b>Contents</b>                              |
|------------------|--|
| BOX 1 REEL 1     | Vol. 1, 1769, Jan. 15-1824, Oct. 23          |
| BOX 2 REEL 1     | Vol. 2, 1824, Oct. 23-1859, Oct. 27, undated |